THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with a capability to launch Indian National Satellite System-2 (INSAT-2) class of satellites in the required orbit is under development. The first development flight of GSLV is planned during 1998.

**Launching of climate-satellite**

1834. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has submitted a proposal for launching climate-satellie; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon to enable Government to save lives during natural calamities by advance prediction of cyclones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has constituted an Expert Group for defining a satellite for climate studies — CLIMATSAT Programme Definition Group — for working out the technical feasibility of designing and launching such a satellite. The Committee is presently working out the payload mix, orbit, satellite configuration, etc., for the proposed satellite in close collaboration with various Indian user Organisations such as, India Meterological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and Indian Institute of Science.

(b) Presently, the analysis of sequential cloud cover images provided by the Indian geostationary INSAT satellites, has been facilitating advanced warning on the onset of cyclones. The Disaster Warning System using additionally the communication capability of INSAT has been used to take advanced actions in relation to evacuation of people from coastal regions.

**Remote sensing techniques for soil reclamation**

1835. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Remote Sensing Agency has introduced advanced remote sensing techniques for treating salt affected soild for reclamation measures which can increase food production;

(b) if so, the districts of Andhra Pradesh where it has been tested;

(c) whether Government propose to popularise the technique for coastal regions, for more agricultural yield and to assist farmers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) has not by itself introduced any advanced remote sensing technique for treating salt affected soils for reclamation measures, which could increase food production.

NRSA has, however, developed the methodology for identification and delineation of salt affected soils and for categorising them into different groups based on the nature and magnitude of the

problem of soil salinity, using satellite remote sensing data. The information from these maps is useful for taking further steps towards reclamation measures of salt affected soils by Agriculture Departments/Research Institutions.

In Andhra Pradesh, mapping of salt affected soils on 1:250,000 scale using satellite data, has been taken up for the entire State. The work is nearing completion. On the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh, NRSA has also brought out maps showing salt affected soils for four south coastal districts of the State viz., Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore, on 1:50,000 scale using Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) data.

**Bombay urban infrastructure development project**

1836. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the Bombay Urban Development Project;

(b) what is the stage of the project;

(c) by when the project would be actually started; and

(d) what steps would be taken to see that the project is implemented fast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The salient features of the Mumbai Urban Infrastructure financing Project submitted by Mumbai Metropolitan Development Authority (MMRDA) are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) After the project proposal was sent by the Govt. of India to the World Bank for consideration, an IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) Mission visited Mumbai and held discussions with State Government officials. However, in April, 1997, the World Bank had advised the concerned agencies to hold off the project preparation work until agreements on institutional arrangements are finalised.

(c) In view of the stand taken by the World Bank, it is not possible to indicate any further details at this stage.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

The salient features of the proposed MMRDA Fund are as follows:—

1. Set up a Trust and float infrastructure fund. The infrastructure fund would have an initial corpus from Govt. of India, MMRDA, Government of Maharashtra and Financial Institutions like IL&FS, HDFC and ICICI. A separate Asset Management Company (AMC) is to be established to manage the fund independently within the broad guidelines prescribed by the Trust. The corpus of the Trust Fund is proposed to be shared by Financial Institutions and Govt. of India, Government of Maharashtra alongwith MMRDA in the ratio of 51:49.
2. The initial corpus would be eventually augmented by obtaining contributions from agencies like SICOM, MIDC, CIDCO etc. and also from other financial institutions.
3. The Equity base of the Asset Management Company would be smaller which will be shared by the financial institutions and Govt. of India, Government of Maharashtra alongwith MMRDA in the same proporations as in the case of the corpus.